



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PR-3**

April 7, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Dean D. Efstathiou *DDE*
Acting Director of Public Works

THE COUNTYWIDE BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS WASTE REDUCTION COMPETITION RECOGNITION REQUEST

The Department of Public Works' Generation Earth program, an environmental education program, is conducting the annual Battle of the Schools (BOS) Waste Reduction Competition. The competition is a wonderful opportunity for County of Los Angeles teenagers to demonstrate school pride, civic responsibility and commitment to a healthy and beautiful environment. The contest runs February 1, 2008, through May 1, 2008, and is open to all middle and high schools in the County of Los Angeles.

We will honor one school from each Supervisorial District and announce contest winners in May 2008. We are requesting that Each Supervisor: 1) acknowledge the winning schools in his/her District by providing a proclamation in recognition of their commitment and achievements, and 2) present proclamations to the school representatives at a Board meeting in late May or early June 2008.

Competition Description

The BOS competition is designed for students to reduce the amount of waste leaving school campus on a weekly basis. The winning middle and high schools are those campuses that divert the most waste within a given two-week period of the competition.

- Participants receive a BOS Action Kit and conduct a campus waste audit. The audit helps students analyze the impact of pollution on school campuses and identify ways to reduce waste. Students examine cafeterias, classrooms, offices, and similar areas to determine the school's need to reduce waste. Each school develops recommendations to reduce the amount of waste by using a variety of techniques, including source reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Each Supervisor
April 7, 2008
Page 2

- We provide participants technical assistance in performing waste audits as well as assist them in networking with municipal recycling coordinators and industry leaders.
- During the competition, we teach students about legislation that directly affects their cities and schools, waste and water pollution issues, the impact of waste in the County of Los Angeles, and how to reduce waste on campus and in everyday life. Participating schools not only divert waste from area landfills, they also generate disposal cost savings.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you and your staff to provide additional details about the BOS. We will gladly provide sample wording for the proclamations. Please contact me or your staff may contact Emma L. Ayala, Head, Public Relations Group, at (626) 458-4093.

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)
Executive Office